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F18RS SGB No. 6 (Admin and Campaigning)

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STUDENT SENATE
F18RS
SGB No. 6
BY: SENATOR J. LANDRY

ENROLLED

A BILL

**TO AMEND THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS REGARDING ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION AND CAMPAIGNING**

- PARAGRAPH 1:** WHEREAS, THE ELECTION DOCUMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (EDRC) WAS CHARGED WITH REVIEWING AND, IF NECESSARY, AMENDING PROVISIONS IN THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS RELATING TO ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE ELECTIONS PROCESS; AND
- PARAGRAPH 2:** WHEREAS, PURSUANT TO THAT DUTY, THE EDRC HAS SEEN FIT TO PROPOSE CERTAIN AMENDMENTS RELATING TO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AND CAMPAIGNING; AND
- PARAGRAPH 3:** THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT BYLAWS AND ELECTION CODE ARE AMENDED AS DESCRIBED IN THE APPENDIX TO THIS BILL, AND
- PARAGRAPH 4:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO ERICA BORNE, COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS; ANDREW CHENEVERT, CHIEF JUSTICE; AND JONATHAN SANDERS, STUDENT GOVERNMENT ADVISOR, AND
- PARAGRAPH 5:** THIS BILL SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON THE CALL TO ORDER OF THE SPRING 2019 REGULAR SESSION FOLLOWING PASSAGE BY A TWO-THIRDS ($2/3$) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT, LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR, IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT, SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL BY THE SENATE, AND

Appendix

Bylaws

ARTICLE V: College Council Affairs

§2. Vacancy and Succession of College Council Officers

- *Section 2.C.* If the offices of the President and Vice President of a College Council become vacant simultaneously, the remaining members within the respective College Council will elect a new President and Vice President amongst themselves. Any remaining positions will be filled through the application process from their respective academic area. If there are no remaining members within that College Council, then the Election Board shall conduct an election to fill the vacancies **no later than the next Spring or Fall General Election.**

Election Code

ARTICLE III: Election Timetable

§1. Order of Events

- *Section 1.* The election time frame shall consist of five (5) consecutive or non-consecutive academic weeks. If the election consists of non-consecutive academic weeks, it may not exceed **nine (9)** academic weeks and may not deviate from the weekly order of events as prescribed below beginning no sooner than the third (3rd) week of class in a semester and ending no later than the twelfth (12th) academic week of class in a semester. **Non-consecutive weeks may only be used to avoid weeks shortened by University holidays or affected by emergency conditions declared by the University or the civil authorities.** The order of events for any campus-wide election, not including special elections and the elections for the consideration of a referendum brought by petition or constitutional amendment, shall be as follows:
 - Week 1: Monday: Ticket heads **may begin registering ticket names**
 - Monday & Tuesday: Pre-filing, Election Informational Meeting(s)
 - Wednesday-Friday: Filing Period
 - Week 2: Monday: Posting of Qualified Candidates
 - Tuesday-Friday: Mandatory Meeting and Ticket Registration
 - **Friday: Deadline for tickets to register ticket names and candidate rosters**
 - **Friday: Deadline for Senate submission to/signature verification by Election Board for inclusion of recall, petition, and referendum questions on ballot**
 - Week 3: Monday-Friday: Active Campaigning
 - Week 4: Monday: General Election
 - Tuesday: Financial and monetary contribution reports filed
 - Wednesday: Complaints Due and General Election Results
 - Thursday: Validation of General Election Results
 - Thursday – Friday: Active Campaigning for run-off election
 - Week 5: Monday: Run-off Election
 - Tuesday: Financial and monetary contribution reports filed
 - Wednesday: Complaints Due and Run-off Election Results
 - Thursday: Validation of Run-off Election Results

§5. Pre-Filing

- (A) *Section 5.A.* A student shall have the option to pre-file for an election to ensure he/she meets all stipulations outlined in Section 7 of this Article for the sought office before the period of filing begins. Students who are deemed qualified will be filed and qualified, unless the student returns during the filing period to file for a different position; students who are deemed unqualified for the seat he or she had intended to register for will be notified and be given the opportunity to file for a different position for which they are qualified during the filing period.
- (B) *Section 5.B.* A two (2) day class period for pre-filing shall be opened on the first academic week of the election timeframe.
- (C) *Section 5.C.* Each student choosing to pre-file must submit a Pre-Filing Form to the Election Board on these two (2) class days from **12:00 AM on the first day** until 4:30PM **on the second day**. This form may be turned in to the Elections Board by the student interested in filing for office. This form shall include:
 - a. The student's name;
 - b. The student's LSU identification number;
 - c. The Academic Area in which the student is enrolled;
 - d. The office sought.
 - e. **If technically possible, bona fide name and/or nickname by which the candidate wishes to be known on the ballot**

§6. Filing

- (A) *Section 6.A.* A person shall file as a candidate by:
 - a. Filing his/her intention for candidacy, in person, by completing registration with the Election Board during the filing period; and,
 - i. No one may file on behalf of a student that is not himself/herself.
 - ii. Official LSU picture ID must be presented at the time of filing. **If filing is done through an official University online platform, official University authentication methods (such as logging in to myLSU) shall suffice for this purpose.**
 - b. Verifying his/her eligibility by the Election Board.
- (B) *Section 6.B.* A three (3) class day period for filing shall be opened on the second academic week of the election timeframe. Any student may file an intention of candidacy form provided by the Election Board for the office he/she seeks from **12:00 A.M. on the first day** to 4:30 P.M. **on the final day**.

§12. General Election Results

- *Section 12.* Regardless of complaints or appeals, the unofficial results of the General Election shall be announced by the Commissioner of Elections in an appropriate campus location, **uploaded to the Student Government website, and posted outside the Student Government offices** after 4:30 P.M. on the Wednesday after the General Election. **Should such results be changed due to judgments on complaints or appeals prior to results becoming final, these notices shall be updated accordingly.**

§14. Run-off Election

- (A) *Section 14.A.* Except as otherwise provided in this Election Code, if no candidate in the General Election receives a **majority** of votes of the votes cast, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes in said election shall be in a Run-off Election.

§15. Run-off Election Results

- *Section 15.* Regardless of complaints or appeals, the unofficial results of the Run-off Election shall be announced by the Commissioner of Elections in an appropriate campus location, **uploaded to the Student Government website, and posted outside the Student Government offices** after 4:30 P.M. on the Wednesday after the Run-off Election. **Should such results be changed due to judgments on complaints or appeals prior to results becoming final, these notices shall be updated accordingly.**

ARTICLE IV: Voting

§1. Ballots

- (A) *Section 1.A.* Candidates shall appear on the ballot in a randomly generated order determined by the Election Board.
 - a. Student Body President and Vice President shall not be voted on separately; they shall be listed together.
 - b. Ticket affiliation shall be listed next to the names of each candidate registered with a ticket.
 - c. Independent candidates shall be noted as “Independent.”
- **(B) Section 1.B. If technically feasible, the runoff ballot shall include a link to the results of the General Election.**
- **(C) Section 1.C. No write-in votes for candidates shall be allowed, and no space for write-ins shall be provided.**

§4. Online voting

- (A) *Section 4.A.* Students may vote from any voting apparatus with access to the internet using “Moodle” or voting stations provided by the Election Board.
- **(B) Section 4.B. In the event that “Moodle” cannot be used for a particular race, the Election Board shall be responsible for holding voting on an alternate online voting portal, such as Qualtrics. A link to vote shall be distributed electronically to all voters eligible to vote in the specific election.**
 - **a. These elections shall follow all other rules listed in the Election Code except Section 6 of this Article.**
 - **b. The Election Board will be responsible for ensuring that all voters meet the requirements to vote in the election. This shall be done by requiring that voters submit their PAWS ID and 89 number and cross referencing them to a list provided by appropriate administrators.**
 - **i. Any vote submitted by someone ineligible to vote in a given election will not be counted, but no penalty shall be levied against the voter, candidate, or ticket unless a clear intent to deceive or corrupt the election can be demonstrated.**
 - **ii. Any alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct or any other University policy will be turned over to SAA for further action.**

§7. Voting Stations and Locations

- (A) *Section 7.A.* A voting location shall be defined as **an electronic device, excepting public computer labs, that is** used by an individual other than the owner **to access the official online ballot.**
- (B) *Section 7.B.* No organized voting locations shall be allowed except those administered by the Election Board.

§8. Votes to Win General Election

- (A) *Section 8.A.* In order to win the General Election, a **an opposed** candidate must receive a plurality of votes in addition to meeting a percentage threshold of the total vote.
- (B) *Section 8.B.* **A candidate who is unopposed when the General Election results are deemed final shall be automatically elected.**
- (C) *Section 8.C.* The vote threshold required to win is determined by dividing one hundred (100) by the number of seats available, and then dividing that number by two (2).
 - **a. For example, if there are two (2) seats available, a candidate would need to get more than twenty-five percent (25%) to win outright.**
- (D) *Section 8.D.* If more candidates reach the percentage threshold needed than there are seats open, then the candidate(s) that receive the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner(s).

- a. For example, if three (3) people are running for two (2) seats and all three (3) attain the plurality of votes needed, then the two (2) candidates with the most votes are the winners in the General Election.
- (E) *Section 8.E.* If a candidate is disqualified after the ballot is finalized, any vote cast for that candidate will still be tallied in the total votes used to determine the plurality percentage threshold of votes.

ARTICLE V: Tickets

§3. Non-Recognized Tickets

- (A) *Section 4.A.* Only a ticket that is registered and recognized by the Election Board as a ticket may operate as such.
- (B) *Section 4.B.* Any group or affiliation of candidates that act as a ticket without being recognized as such, and utilize the privileges granted to a ticket, primarily those of collective finances and commonly recognized materials and organization, will be held in violation and subject to penalties from the Election Board.
 - a. Collective finances shall be defined as, but not limited to, two or more candidates and/or tickets jointly expending monetary contributions that were originally give to separate candidates or tickets.
 - b. Commonly recognized materials shall be defined as, but not limited to, two or more candidates and/or tickets jointly producing campaign materials that do not clearly identify each individual or candidate as members of the separate tickets originally denoted at the time of ticket registration.
 - **c. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a ticket or independent candidate from endorsing and/or otherwise supporting other tickets or candidates in races where the endorsing ticket or candidate is not running or running fewer than the maximum number of candidates (in either the General Election or the Run-off Election), provided that the above restrictions on collective finances and commonly recognized materials are followed.**

ARTICLE VI: Campaigning Practices

§2. On-Campus Campaigning Rules and Regulations

- (D) *Section 2.D.* Prohibition on Interference with Education
 - a. Campaigning must not interfere with the educational life of the University. This includes but is not limited to the posting of campaign signs and/or posters in classrooms, and writing on chalkboards or similar devices.
 - No campaigning (**except for wearing apparel, buttons, stickers, and/or similar items explicitly reflecting an affiliation with a candidate or ticket**) shall be allowed inside any University building or within twenty (20) feet of any entrance to a University building.
 - i. Specifically exempt are candidate and ticket organizational meetings and meetings of registered student organizations, or events authorized by a building coordinator.

§4. Campaigning Ethics

ARTICLE X: Miscellaneous Rules

§2. Withdrawal from the Election

- (B) *Section 2.B.* Should a withdrawn candidate's name remain on the ballot, he or she shall be considered to still have withdrawn and to be thus ineligible to win the election. The position will be awarded to the candidate with the highest votes excluding the

ineligible candidate. The votes for the ineligible candidate shall count toward the **percentage threshold** calculation.

Approved:

Christina Black
Speaker of the Senate

Stewart Lockett
Student Body President

Date:_____

Date:_____